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Mississippi Notebook: Key Groups Condemn School Books

Tom Ethridge

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MISSISSIPPI NOTEBOOK

By TOM ETHRIDGE



Key Groups Condemn School Books

CRITICISM OF some textbooks used in our public school system has been renewed lately by leadership of two key organizations — the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation.

These latest criticisms echo others voiced from time to time by dissatisfied citizens who feel that socialism and other un-American theories are being imparted to our young people through school books provided by taxpayers.

Mrs. Edna Alexander of Grenada, DAR leader and spokesman in textbook-screening demands, has just issued a public statement citing alleged socialistic teachings in a certain volume used by public schools.

At its recent state convention, the Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation suggested a change in the membership of our State Textbook Commission to rid

public schools of "unsatisfactory" books. The group strongly favored "preserving the separation of the races in education."

The Farm Bureau convention, representing thousands of Mississippi members, adopted a resolution saying that some textbooks do not teach "States' Rights, racial integrity, Free Enterprise and Americanism—the underlying principles of government in the State of Mississippi."

THE FARM BUREAU organization is headed by Boswell Stevens of Macon. Its resolution concerning textbooks found fault mainly in those related to history, social studies and civics subjects.

One volume specifically named allegedly calls for "redistribution of the wealth, government control of press, radio and television, and federal control of basic industries such as electric power, steel and railroads."

Too Much Welfare State And U. N.

AS A MATTER OF public interest, here is the text of the Farm Bureau Federation of Mississippi's official resolution on the subject of textbooks and teachings:

We recommend screening of teachers in our state institutions and that those with Communist and atheistic beliefs not be employed. We recommend that text books be screened and those containing these beliefs not be used in our schools.

The Farm Bureau recognizes that States' Rights, Racial Integrity, Free Enterprise and Americanism are the underlying principles of government in the State of Mississippi. It has been found that taxpayers' dollars are going for school books that do not teach these principles.

Most of the unsatisfactory

books are among History, Social Studies and Civics. An example of an unsatisfactory book is "Economic Problems of Today". The printed excerpts call for:

1. Redistribution of the wealth
2. Government control of press, radio and television
3. Federal government control of basic industries such as electric power, steel and railroads.

It praises the welfare State, the Socialistic features of the New Deal and socialized medicine.

In some Civics and Social Studies, the over emphasis on the United Nations threatens the sovereignty and security of the United States. Many more pages are devoted to propaganda for world government than to the advantages of our Republican system of government.

Urges Ross To Appoint "Patriots"

FURTHER QUOTING the Farm Bureau resolution:

A book entitled "Your Life as a Citizen" debunks the traditional fact that our forefathers came to these shores seeking religious freedom. A sample of the debunking technique which destroys a child's respect and admiration for our country's founders is "as to the story that the Pilgrims gave thanks for their arrival to a promised land, can be a little doubtful."

A book on Central America tells about the Panama Canal, but never mentions that the United States built it. Many children do not know the truth about this great engineering feat.

The writings of Ralph Bunche, Langston Hughes, and Mary McLeod Bethune are given more prominence in English Literature books than they de-

serve. These three negroes have been closely identified with Communist and pro-Communist causes.

For these and other reasons, we petition the Governor to order the appropriate textbook authorities to withdraw from use all objectionable books purchased with Mississippi tax dollars and cancel unfilled orders or contracts for such books, and to forbid the purchase of additional unsatisfactory textbooks.

We further request that the Governor take another look at the State Textbook Commission and appoint informed patriots, and assigned each member of the committee to review the books in his field of experience and training. We believe this reappraisal of the Textbook Commission will eliminate the unsatisfactory books now being used.